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Sen. Kuipers appointed to higher-education task-force

LANSING – Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, has been selected to serve on the governor’s commission to find ways to increase the number of Michigan residents who receive college degrees or other post-secondary training.

The commission, which will be chaired by Lt. Gov. John Cherry, also includes leaders of Michigan education, business and government. The panel’s formal name is the Lieutenant Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth.

“I look forward to working with Lieutenant Governor Cherry and the rest of the commission to make Michigan the national leader in the amount of residents with advanced training,” Kuipers said. “We have to ensure that Michigan residents remain competitive in today’s global economy. With the right training, I know our state will succeed.”

Kuipers chairs the Senate Education Committee, which oversees primary and secondary education. He has proposed replacing the Michigan Educational Assessment Program test given to high-school students with a standardized, college-entrance exam, such as the ACT. The senator believes the change would better prepare students for college and working life.

The commission will hold its first meeting July 14.

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